RELIGION 12/1/93 G.T.

Senator wants churches free of protesters

Condom-throwing incident makes news on Capitol Hill

By **D'Arcy Fallon**
Gazette Telegraph

Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, spurred on in part by an incident in Colorado Springs, wants to put a protective "bubble" around churches and places of worship, much like one proposed for abortion clinics.

Equating the right to an abortion without harassment to the right to worship in peace, Hatch, a Republican, has authored an amendment to the controversial "bubble bill."

Hatch: Proposes protective zone around churches.

The 1993 bill, called the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, would prevent protesters from blocking entrances to abortion clinics. Under Hatch's amendment, adopted by the Senate in November, protesters could be fined if they used "force or threat of force or physical obstruction" to interfere with or intimidate anyone at a place of worship. Protesters could also be fined if they intentionally destroyed church property.

If the amendment becomes law, it could have a direct effect on two local gay rights groups that threw condoms at a congregation during church services last month. On Nov. 7, Savage Homos Into Truth and Lesbian Avengers interrupted a service at Village Seven Presbyterian Church, blowing a police whistle, throwing condoms and chanting "Gays and lesbians under attack in Colorado Springs." The church has said homosexuality is wrong.

Last month, when the House introduced its own version of the "bubble bill," it didn't include language similar to the Hatch amendment. Next year, during a congressional conference committee designed to iron out the different versions of the bills, Hatch's amendment will either be in-

See **HATCH**/A3

Stuart Wong/Gazette Telegraph

Stan Wright and Chris Baka stand in front of Village Seven Presbyterian Church on Tuesday. The two were among activists who threw condoms during a protest at the church Nov. 7. A proposal by Sen. Orrin Hatch would make such protests illegal.

with the Food and Drug Administration, arguing that women should be able to get silicone breast implants once informed of the risks./**A7**

WORLD

▶ **AMERICAN STILL CAPTIVE:** An American diplomat who was kidnapped on Thanksgiving remained in the hands of Yemeni captors Tuesday, but U.S. and Yemeni officials said they expected Haynes Mahoney to be freed soon./**A8**

CITY/REGION

▶ **DENIED EARLY RELEASE:** Brent Rickstrew, who was convicted of vehicular homicide in the 1987 drunken-driving death of a Colorado state trooper in Monument, was denied an early release from prison Tuesday./**B4**

OPINION

▶ **THE COST OF BREAKING 'GRIDLOCK':** Congressional leaders are being praised for finally breaking "gridlock." The only folks who aren't cheering are working Americans. Gridlock has been broken, all right, but the result has been a flood of new taxes and regulations./**B6**

STATE

▶ **ROMER STATEMENT SURPRISES GOP:** Gov. Roy Romer said Tuesday that if he wins a third term in office he won't ditch it for higher ambitions in Washington. Romer's remarks surprised some Republicans who have speculated he would abandon office for a federal appointment./**B8**

SPORTS

▶ **ROCKIES GET THEIR CENTER FIELDER:** Outfielder Ellis Burks on Tuesday signed a three-year contract with the Colorado Rockies. Burks — who also was offered a multi-year contract by the Chicago White Sox, for whom he played last season — was believed to have signed a package with the Rockies worth about $10 million./**C1**

A pact with Pack

Robert Pack, a 6-foot-2 point traded from Portland to the last year, has missed all of t the first 12 games of the reg Pack, shown in action last Mar Tuesday to a three-year contr team. SPORTS/**C2**

BUSINESS

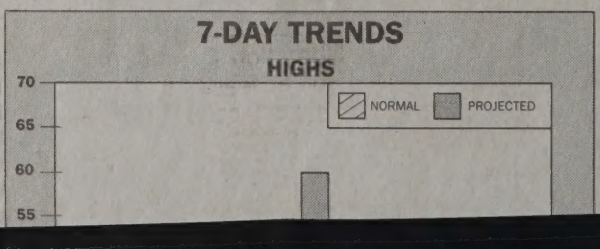
▶ **APPLE DENIED TAX BREAK** has refused to give a tax break to Inc., citing the company's policy o benefits to partners of gay and le employees./**C6**

LIFESTYLE

▶ **A POSSIBLE REMEDY FOR** Scientists say that estrogen seem menopausal women from getting ease, but more research is needed treatment can be recommended

LOCAL FORECAST

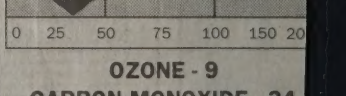
Today: Clouds and sunshine; a couple of snow showers. High 42.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 24.
Thursday: Some sunshine; becoming windy and milder. High 46, low 22.
Friday: Sunny to partly cloudy; windy at times. High 46, low 28.
Saturday: Partly sunny, windy, milder. High 60, low 24.
Sunday: Mixed clouds and sun, windy and much cooler. High 46, low 20.



STATISTICS

AIR QUALITY

(3 p.m. TUE. NOV. 30)



OZONE - 9
CARBON MONOXIDE - 34

24-HOUR

Time	Temp.	Wind	Hum
Monday			
6 p.m.	39	N 5	
7 p.m.	34	NE 8	
8 p.m.	35	SE 6	
9 p.m.	33	NE 3	
10 p.m.	37	E 7	
11 p.m.	37	SE 5	
Tuesday			

Hatch/Senator feels right to worship is under attack

From A1

corporated or thrown out.

Presenting his amendment to the Senate two weeks ago, Hatch said that the right to attend places of worship was under attack and that anyone who voted against the amendment or who attempted to dilute it "values religious freedom far less than abortion."

Hatch cited a number of examples, including the disturbance at Village Seven Presbyterian Church. Other incidents he mentioned were synagogues being defaced and vandalized, an arsonist setting fire to a church in St. Petersburg, Fla., and the disruption of Catholic services in New York and other cities.

And in San Francisco in September, activists blocked access to a Baptist church, pushing and shoving churchgoers and pelting them with rocks and eggs, Hatch added.

Hatch's amendment sounds like a good idea to the Rev. A. Bernhard Kuiper, the senior pastor at Village Seven Presbyterian — provided those who disagree with the church's teachings don't feel ostracized from church services.

"I'm in favor of people not . . . disturbing, but we certainly don't want our church to be isolated from people who disagree with us," Kuiper said.

The Rev. Ted Haggard, a senior pastor at New Life Church, called Colorado Springs "a model of reasonable discourse" on the issue of Amendment 2. Still, the Hatch amendment would protect the public's freedom to assemble and worship.

"Worship is a very intimate experience," Haggard said. "It's as intimate to a believer as the marital relationship in the bedroom between a husband and a wife."

While Colorado Springs doesn't necessarily need protection under the amendment, other cities do, said Haggard, who dismissed those who interrupted church services at Village Seven as a "fringe group."

"It's an offshoot group that does not understand the things they should've learned in civics class," Haggard said.

Chris Baka of Savage Homos Into Truth, one of the groups that took part in the church disruption, said the point of the protest wasn't to intimidate churchgoers but to make them think hard about Amendment 2. The amendment, which would prohibit laws protecting gays from discrimination based on sexual orientation, was approved by Colorado voters in November 1992 but has been on hold because of a constitutional challenge.

"They profess their love for us, of God's love of everyone, yet there's another plan beneath the surface," Baka said. "They don't want a homosexual element in this city. They're saying, 'Shut up, sit back and go back into your closets.' "

Locations of Christmas Stores available at Customer Service

Ashley's Silver • Big Horn Sheepskin • Black Elk • Cellular One • Christmas Unlimited • Christmas is Coming • Comfort Zone • Copper & Creations • Crystal World • Encyclopaedia Brittanica • French Desires • FT Casuals • Fun With Photos • Geppeddo Dolls • A Gift of Art • Great Golf Gifts • The Happy Chandler • Health Rider • Historical Research/Pewter • Its A Wrap • Kiddie Train Rides • Kneading Fingers • Ozark Prints • Pegasus Interaction • Portrait Place • RJE's Hanging Shelves • Running Rabbit • Southwestern Creations • Spa Palace • St. Nick's Christmas • Stephany's Chocolates • Tie the Knot • Watch Out

COLLECTABLE

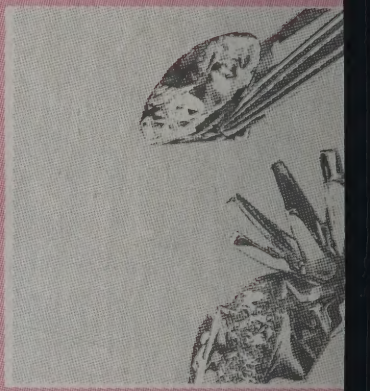
Bears and Gifts

Chapel Hills Mall
1710 Briargate, #384
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
719-535-8265

SAVINGS • SELECTI

Cleverly Hidden Next to

Get Set
Restylin



Be your own jeweler at Z
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gemstones. While you wa
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Thursday, December